

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information management apparatus comprising:
output apparatus information storage means for storing
information relevant to an output apparatus for outputting
5 information , with the stored information linked with
identification information for identifying said output
apparatus;

output request receiving means for receiving an output
request for information, transmitted from a portable
10 terminal;

inquiry signal transmission means for transmitting an
inquiry signal for inquiring said portable terminal of an
output apparatus for an output destination, when an output
request is received by said output request receiving means;

15 image data receiving means for receiving image data
transmitted from said portable terminal;

identification information acquisition means for
analyzing image data transmitted from said portable terminal
in response to said inquiry signal and received by said image
20 data receiving means, and for acquiring identification
information relevant to an output apparatus, involved in
said image data;

output destination information retrieval means for
retrieving the information relevant to said output apparatus
25 from said output apparatus information storage means based
upon the identification information acquired by said

identification information acquisition means; and

information output means for, based upon the
information relevant to the particular output apparatus
retrieved by said output destination information retrieval
means, outputting the information to said particular output
5 apparatus.

2. The information management apparatus according
to claim 1 further comprising:

goods information storage means for storing
10 information relevant to goods while linking said information
to identification information for identifying the goods;

identification information acquisition
means for analyzing image data received by said image data
receiving means, and for acquiring identification
15 information of goods involved in image data; and

goods information retrieval means for retrieving the
information relevant to said goods from said goods
information storage means based upon the identification
information acquired by said identification information
20 acquisition means, wherein,

said information output means outputs the information
relevant to the goods retrieved by said goods information
retrieval means.

3. An information management apparatus comprising:

25 information storage means for storing information
relevant to an output apparatus for outputting information ,

with the stored information linked to global identification information tagged uniformly to the output apparatus and different kinds of goods;

5 output request receiving means for receiving an output request of information transmitted from a portable terminal;

 inquiry signal transmission means for transmitting an inquiry signal for inquiring said portable terminal of an output apparatus for an output destination, when an output request is received by said output request receiving means;

10 image data receiving means for receiving image data transmitted from said portable terminal;

 identification information acquisition means for analyzing image data transmitted from said portable terminal in response to said inquiry signal and received by said image data receiving means, and for acquiring identification information relevant to an output apparatus involved in said image data;

15 converting means for converting identification information of the output apparatus acquired by said identification information acquisition means into global identification information;

20 information retrieval means for retrieving information relevant to said output apparatus from said information storage means based upon the global identification information converted by said converting means; and

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information output means for, based upon the information relevant to the particular output apparatus retrieved by said output destination information retrieval means, outputting the information to said particular output apparatus.

4. The information management apparatus according to claim 3 wherein,

said information storage means further stores information relevant to goods , with the stored information linked to said global identification information;

said identification information acquisition means analyzes image data received by said image data receiving means, and acquires identification information of goods involved in the image data;

said converting means converts identification information of goods acquired by said identification information acquisition means into global identification information;

said information retrieval means retrieves information relevant to said goods from said information storage means based upon the global identification information converted by said converting means; and

said information output means outputs information relevant to goods retrieved by said information retrieval means.

5. An information management apparatus comprising:

output apparatus information storage means for storing information relevant to an output apparatus for outputting information , with the stored information linked to identification information for identifying the output apparatus;

output request receiving means for receiving image data transmitted from a portable terminal and an output request for information;

identification information acquisition means for analyzing the image data received by said output request receiving means, and for acquiring identification information of an output apparatus involved in said image data;

output destination information retrieval means for retrieving the information relevant to said output apparatus from said output apparatus information storage means based upon the identification information acquired by said identification information acquisition means; and

information output means for, based upon the information relevant to the particular output apparatus retrieved by said output destination information retrieval means, outputting the information to said particular output apparatus.

6. A portable terminal including photographing means comprising:

output request transmission means for transmitting an

output request for information to an information management apparatus which allows an output apparatus to output the information;

5 inquiry signal receiving means for receiving an inquiry signal transmitted from said information management apparatus in response to said output request for inquiring said portable terminal of an output apparatus for an output destination; and

10 image data transmission means for transmitting identification information tagged to said output apparatus for identifying this particular output apparatus and image data photographed with said photographing means to said information management apparatus, when an inquiry signal is received by said inquiry signal receiving means.

15 7. The portable terminal according to claim 6 wherein, said image data transmission means transmits identification information tagged to goods for identifying this particular goods and image data photographed with said photographing means to said information management
20 apparatus.

 8. A portable terminal comprising:
 photographing means for photographing identification information to obtain image data, said identification information being tagged to an output apparatus for
25 identifying this particular output apparatus; and
 output request transmission means for transmitting

image data photographed by said photographing means and an output request for information to an information management apparatus which allows to output information.

9. An information output system having an output apparatus for outputting information and an information management apparatus connecting each other through a network, in which the information management apparatus includes an output apparatus information storage means for storing information relevant to said output apparatus and identifies an output apparatus based on information transmitted from a portable terminal to have this particular output information, wherein,

said portable terminal comprising:

identification acquisition means for acquiring identification information of said output apparatus; and

identification information transmission means for transmitting identification information acquired by said identification information acquisition means to said information management apparatus, and

said information management apparatus comprising:

identification information receiving means for receiving identification information transmitted from said portable terminal;

output destination information retrieval means for retrieving information relevant to said output apparatus from said output apparatus information storage means based

upon identification information received by said
identification information receiving means; and

information output means for, based upon the
information relevant to the particular output apparatus
5 retrieved by said output destination information retrieval
means, outputting the information to said particular output
apparatus.

10. An information outputting method in an
information output system having an output apparatus for
10 outputting information and an information management
apparatus connecting each other through a network, in which
the information management apparatus includes an output
apparatus information storage means for storing information
relevant to said output apparatus and specifies an output
15 apparatus to output information based upon information
transmitted from a portable terminal, the method comprising:

an output request transmission step for transmitting
an output request for information from said portable terminal
to said information management apparatus receiving it;

20 an inquiry signal transmission step for transmitting
an inquiry signal which said information management apparatus
inquires an output apparatus being a destination to be
outputted, to said portable terminal receiving it, when said
information management apparatus receives the output request
25 in said output request transmission step;

an image data transmission step for transmitting image

data of identification information tagged to an output apparatus for identifying it, photographed by said portable terminal, when said portable terminal receives the inquiry signal in said inquiry signal transmission step;

5 an identification information acquisition step for analyzing image data received by said information management apparatus in said image data transmission step, and for acquiring the identification information of the output apparatus involved in said image data;

10 an output destination information retrieval step for retrieving the information relevant to said output apparatus from said output apparatus information storage means using said information management apparatus, based upon the identification information acquired in said identification
15 information acquisition step; and

 an information output step for allowing said output apparatus to output information using said information management apparatus, based upon the information relevant to the particular output apparatus retrieved by said output
20 destination information retrieval step, outputting the information to said particular output apparatus.

11. An information outputting method in an information output system having an output apparatus for outputting goods information and an information management
25 apparatus connecting each other through a network, in which the information management apparatus includes an output

apparatus information storage means for storing information relevant to said output apparatus and goods information storage means for storing information relevant to goods, and specifies an output apparatus to output information based upon information transmitted from a portable terminal, the method comprising:

a first image data transmission step for transmitting image data of identification information tagged to goods for identifying it, photographed by said portable terminal, to said information management apparatus receiving it;

a first identification information acquisition step for analyzing image data received by said information management apparatus in said first image data transmission step, and for acquiring the identification information of the goods involved in said image data;

goods information retrieval step for retrieving the information relevant to said goods from said goods information storage means using said information management apparatus, based upon the identification information acquired in said first identification information acquisition step;

an output request transmission step for transmitting an output request for the information relevant to said goods using said portable terminal to said information management apparatus receiving it;

an inquiry signal transmission step for transmitting

an inquiry signal for inquiring said portable terminal of
an output apparatus for an output destination, from said
information management apparatus to said portable terminal
receiving it, when said information management apparatus
5 receives the inquiry signal in said output request
transmission step;

a second image data transmission step for transmitting
image data of identification information tagged to an output
apparatus for identifying it, photographed by said portable
10 terminal, to said information management apparatus receiving
it, when said portable terminal receives the inquiry signal
in said inquiry signal transmission step;

a second identification information acquisition step
for analyzing image data received by said information
15 management apparatus in said second image data transmission
step, and for acquiring the identification information of
the goods involved in said image data;

an output destination information retrieval step for
retrieving the information relevant to said output apparatus
20 from said output apparatus information storage means using
said information management apparatus, based upon the
identification information acquired in said second
identification information acquisition step; and

an information output step for outputting the
25 information relevant to the goods, retrieved in said goods
information retrieval step, using said information

management apparatus, based upon the information relevant to the particular output apparatus retrieved by said output destination information retrieval step, outputting the information to said particular output apparatus.

5 12. An information outputting method in an information output system having an output apparatus for outputting information and an information management apparatus connecting each other through a network, in which the information management apparatus includes an information
10 storage means for storing information relevant to said output apparatus, linking global identification information uniformly tagged to any output apparatus and to different kinds of goods, and specifies an output apparatus to output information based upon information transmitted from a
15 portable terminal, the method comprising:

 an output request transmission step for transmitting an output request for information from said portable terminal to said information management apparatus receiving it;

 an inquiry signal transmission step for transmitting
20 an inquiry signal which said information management apparatus inquires an output apparatus being a destination to be outputted, to said portable terminal receiving it, when said information management apparatus receives the output request in said output request transmission step;

25 an image data transmission step for transmitting image data of identification information tagged to an apparatus

for identifying it, photographed by said portable terminal,
when said portable terminal receives the inquiry signal in
said inquiry signal transmission step;

an identification information acquisition step for
5 analyzing image data received by said information management
apparatus in said image data transmission step, and for
acquiring the identification information of the output
apparatus involved in said image data;

a converting step for converting the identification
10 information of the output apparatus, acquired in said
identification information acquisition step, into the global
identification information;

an information retrieval step for retrieving the
information relevant to said output apparatus from said
15 information storage means using said information management
apparatus, based upon the global identification information
converted in said converting step; and

an information output step for allowing said output
apparatus to output information using said information
20 management apparatus, based upon the information relevant
to the particular output apparatus retrieved by said output
destination information retrieval step, outputting the
information to said particular output apparatus.

13. An information outputting method in an
25 information output system having an output apparatus for
outputting information and an information management

apparatus connecting each other through a network, in which the information management apparatus includes an information storage means for storing information relevant to said output apparatus and to goods, linking global identification information uniformly tagged to any output apparatus and to different kinds of goods, and specifies an output apparatus to output information based upon information transmitted from a portable terminal, the method comprising:

a first image data transmission step for transmitting image data of identification information tagged to goods for identifying it, photographed by said portable terminal, to said information management apparatus receiving it;

a first identification information acquisition step for analyzing image data received by said information management apparatus in said first image data transmission step, and for acquiring the identification information of the goods involved in said image data;

a first converting step for converting identification information of the goods acquired in said first identification information acquisition step into global identification information;

a first information retrieval step for retrieving the information relevant to said goods from said information storage means using said information management apparatus, based upon the global identification information converted in said first converting step;

an output request transmission step for transmitting an output request for the information relevant to said goods using said portable terminal to said information management apparatus receiving it;

5 an inquiry signal transmission step for transmitting an inquiry signal, for inquiring said portable terminal of an output apparatus for an output destination, from said information management apparatus to said portable terminal receiving it, when said information management apparatus
10 receives the inquiry signal in said output request transmission step;

 a second image data transmission step for transmitting image data of identification information tagged to an output apparatus for identifying it, photographed by said portable
15 terminal, to said information management apparatus receiving it, when said portable terminal receives the inquiry signal in said inquiry signal transmission step;

 a second identification information acquisition step for analyzing image data received by said information
20 management apparatus in said second image data transmission step, and for acquiring the identification information of the output apparatus involved in said image data;

 a second converting step for converting the identification information of the output apparatus acquired
25 in said second identification information acquisition step into global identification information;

a second information retrieval step for retrieving the information relevant to said output apparatus from said information storage means using said information management apparatus, based upon the global identification information converted in said second converting step; and

an information output step for outputting the information relevant to the goods, retrieved in said first information retrieval step, using said information management apparatus, based upon the information relevant to the particular output apparatus retrieved by said output destination information retrieval step, outputting the information to said particular output apparatus.

14. An information outputting method in an information output system having an output apparatus for outputting information and an information management apparatus connecting each other through a network, in which the information management apparatus includes an output apparatus information storage means for storing information relevant to said output apparatus and specifies an output apparatus to output information based upon information transmitted from a portable terminal, the method comprising:

an image data photographing step for obtaining image data of identification information tagged to an output apparatus identifying it, photographed by said portable;

an output request transmission step for transmitting the image data photographed in said image data photographing

step and an output request for information, from said portable terminal to said information management apparatus receiving them;

5 an identification information acquisition step for analyzing the image data transmitted in said output request transmission step, and for acquiring the identification information of the output apparatus involved in said image data;

10 an output destination information retrieval step for retrieving the information relevant to said output apparatus from said output apparatus information storage means, based upon the identification information acquired in said identification information acquisition step; and

15 an information output step for outputting the information to the output apparatus, based upon the information relevant to the particular output apparatus retrieved by said output destination information retrieval step, outputting the information to said particular output apparatus.

20 15. An information outputting method in an information output system having an output apparatus for outputting information and an information management apparatus connecting each other through a network, in which
25 the information management apparatus includes an output apparatus information storage means for storing information relevant to said output apparatus and specifies an output

apparatus to output information based upon information transmitted from a portable terminal, the method comprising:

an identification information acquisition step for acquiring identification information of said output apparatus using said portable terminal acquires;

an identification information transmission step for transmitting the identification information acquired in said identification information acquisition step, from said portable terminal to said information management apparatus;

an output destination information retrieval step for retrieving the information relevant to said output apparatus from said output apparatus information storage means using said information management apparatus, based upon the identification information transmitted in said

identification information transmission step; and

an information output step for outputting the information to said output apparatus, based upon the information relevant to the particular output apparatus retrieved by said output destination information retrieval step, outputting the information to said particular output apparatus.